

U.S. Serial No.: 09/811,702

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesy extended to applicant's representative, Larry Cullen, during an interview on June 30, 2005.

During the interview, applicant asserted that the rejection of claims 3-4, 7-8 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper at least because the combined prior art of McMullan Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,251,324) and Jung (U.S. Pat. No. 6,678,893) does not contain all of the claimed limitations. The examiner reviewed the rejection and agreed to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant advised the examiner that the above claims would be presented in independent form as they are above.

I. Introduction

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13 are pending in the above application.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11 have been incorporated into their respective base claims (claim 1, 5 or 9) and have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 12 and 13 have also been amended to address the informalities kindly pointed out by the examiners objections in the Office action.

Claims 1, 5 and 9 are the independent claims.

No new matter has been added.

II. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by McMullan Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,251,324). Independent claims 1, 5, 9 have been amended

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to incorporate the limitations of claims 3, 7 and 11, respectively, which have not been indicated to be anticipated by McMullan Jr. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1, 5 and 9, and dependent claim 13 is believed to be moot.


Claims 3-4, 7-8 and 11-12 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over McMullan in view of Jung (U.S. Pat. No. 6,678,893). During the interview, the examiner advised that this rejection would be withdrawn. Accordingly, as claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to contain the limitations of claims 3, 7 and 11, respectively, claims 1, 5, and 9 are believed to be patentable over McMullan and Jung, taken alone or in combination. No further response is believed to be necessary at this time.

Having fully responded to the Office action, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues arise that prevent early allowance of the above application, the examiner is invited contact the undersigned to resolve such issues.

To the extent an extension of time is needed for consideration of this response, Applicant hereby request such extension and, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 502117 for any fees associated therewith.

Date: 7/1/05

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Lawrence T. Cullen
Reg. No.: 44,489

Motorola Connected Home Solutions
101 Tournament Drive
Horsham, PA 19044
(215) 323-1797